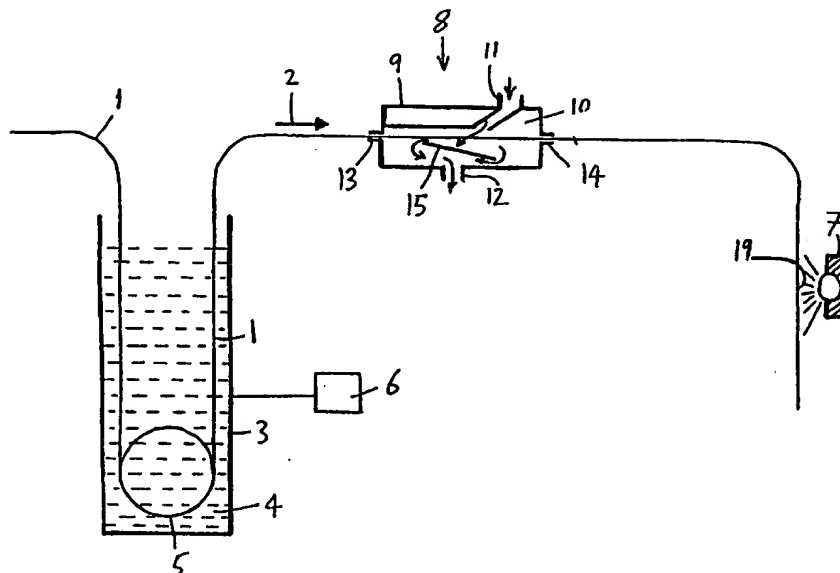




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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR STERILIZING A PACKAGING SHEET MATERIAL



## (57) Abstract

The method of sterilizing a packaging sheet material involves the steps of applying hydrogen peroxide to a packaging sheet material, and irradiating the packaging sheet material with light, including at least one UV wavelength between about 200nm and 320nm. The method also has an intermediate step of removing hydrogen peroxide from the packaging sheet material, after the step of applying hydrogen peroxide and before the step of irradiating the packaging material, whereby to target synergy between the UV light and hydrophilically absorbed hydrogen peroxide in any microorganisms present on the packaging sheet material. An apparatus for carrying out the method is also disclosed.